

Waterloo, Iowa January 20, 2021

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Black Hawk, in the State of Iowa, met in regular adjourned meeting at the Courthouse in Waterloo, County Seat of said County, and electronically via Zoom, in a joint meeting with the Board of Health, at two o'clock (2:00) p.m., pursuant to law, to the rules of said Board, and to adjournment. The meeting was called to order and on roll call there were present: Linda Laylin, Tom Little, Chris Schwartz and Dan Trelka, Chair.

Absent: Craig White.

For the Board of Health, on roll call there were present: Catherine Zeman, Adam Roise, Wes Pilkington, Beth Knipp and Mary Robinson, Chair.

Absent: None.

Unless otherwise noted, all actions were approved unanimously.

Moved by Little, seconded by Schwartz that the AGENDA be received and place on file with the County Auditor as approved. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION – The Board of Supervisors discussed the FY22 Health Department budget with the Board of Health. Trelka said he wanted to hear further justification for the 5.24% increase in tax askings. He asked how many unfilled positions the department has. Human Resources Director Amanda Fesenmeyer said there are six, which the department is trying to fill. Trelka asked if there are any expected retirements that could result in a savings of \$50-75,000. Fesenmeyer said they would probably have vacancies like any other department. Trelka asked about the increase in medical supplies from \$70,600 to \$88,500 and the increase in professional services \$154,126 to \$226,377. Health Department Director Nafissa Cisse Egbuonye the medical supplies are needed for when their clinic starts running four days a week instead of the current two, and that some of the professional services are paid by grant funds.

Little said he is disappointed because the Health Department overspent its operating budget for the last four years, including the purchase of a car and furniture, by drawing from salary and benefit funds for unfilled positions. He said the supervisors will give the department whatever it needs, particularly considering the disease prevention role it plays during a pandemic, but that this should be done via budget amendment if the approved budget is found to be insufficient. Egbuonye said that the vehicle purchase was approved by the Board of Health for use by Environmental Health, with the understanding that inspection fees had been increased by the state. She said on April 9, 2019 she informed the supervisors of this, and when the Board asked if the revenue for it was in the same programmatic area she said yes. She said the vehicle cost \$22,727 and the additional fee revenue was \$21,524.

Perry reviewed actual budget amounts for revenues vs. operating expenses for the last four fiscal years as follows: FY20: Revenues short of budget by \$255,251.77 and expenditures over budget by \$51,871.42; net shortfall \$307,123.19. FY19: Revenues over budget by \$9,899.00 and expenditures over budget by \$105,164.19; net shortfall \$95,265.19. FY18: Revenues over budget by \$181,203.22 and expenditures over budget by \$168,304.90; net gain \$12,898.32. FY17: Revenues over budget by \$34,156.33 and expenditures over budget by \$70,816.87; net shortfall \$36,660.64. Shortfalls were covered by funds budgeted for salary and benefits.

Chairwoman Robinson said that past joint meetings helped the two boards to understand each other, and she appreciated that it has been brought up that issues need to be clarified. She said that all of the managers in the department agreed that the department needed to be reorganized, so Cisse Egbuonye was hired with that skill set in mind. She reorganized based on the essential functions of local health, with the result that the community benefitted, including those paying taxes. She said that the following amounts were returned to the taxpayers when looking at the Health Department's overall budget: FY16, \$238,511. FY17, \$355,157. FY18, \$565,960. FY 19, \$512,429. FY20, \$500,236.

Other Board of Health members made comments. Zeman said the Health Department is updating professional practices in the field, which is an ongoing thing and can create stress. She learned today that there is another level of accounting beyond what the Board of Health deals with, and she hoped a new accounting position in the department will work with the supervisors to avoid future questions and problems. Pilkington said both boards are performing their proper duties, which don't necessarily align with each other, but don't need to lead to ill will. He thought that emotions should be kept out of it. Roise wanted to acknowledge that the department is dealing with the pandemic and is also working toward accreditation, which he hoped would lead to increased revenue and more effectiveness in the community. He thought the budget was fairly lean, and wondered if the department's involvement in responding to the pandemic shouldn't be taken into account. Knipp said she has considerable experience working with tax dollars and health care budgets, and she's never experienced reaching back five years to justify a stance on a budget. She said there is transparency around the department's expenditures, that this is team effort, that more joint meetings are needed, and she is willing to participate.

Trelka said he would like to schedule another joint meeting around March 15. Schwartz said he still supported the Health Department budget as representing the direction the department is going in, which he thought would lead to grant opportunities. Trelka asked if a higher revenue figure could be identified. Perry said that he will need direction from the supervisors on how to proceed very soon. Trelka thought they would arrive at an agreement on January 21.

On motion and vote both boards adjourned.

Dan Trelka, Chair, Board of Supervisors

Grant Veeder, County Auditor